The Church of England's COMPLAINT IN Vindication of Her Loyalty.

IF ever Mother had just reason to Complain of her Children, and expostulate the Case with them, certainly it is I. If ever Children did Dishonour their Parent, or at any time Blast her Reputation, they are now mine.

I who formerly gloried in my stedfast and unshaken Loyalty; I who by many Canons and Ecclesiastical Constitutions established the Regal Authority against all *Papal* and *Popular*, *Foreign* and *Domestick Power*: I who so often declar'd it Unlawful for any Subject, upon *any pretence whatsoever*, to take up either *Offensive* or *Defensive* Arms against their *Soveraign*. I who Contemned my Sister Churches, as Teaching Doctrines and Positions lessening that *Tow'r of Loyalty* which I professed; and particularly Her of *Rome*, for maintaining a Foreign Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, though only in meer Spiritual matters; Now find my Reputation Tainted, my Loyalty brought in question, and my constant adherence to my own Canons and Constitutions, not only doubted of, but denyed; whilst the Malice of some of my Children bring in a Foreign Power to invade my Soveraign's Rights, under a meer pretence of supporting my Grandure; and raise Popular Tumults for the establishing my Peace; whilst the irregular Zeal of others makes them draw their Swords against their and my Head and Soveraign in the most unnatural Quarel; and others who should have stood up to support my Honour, not only look on with an affected Silence, but by covert wayes abet *Rebellion*.

He who spares the Rod, says *Solomon*, *spoils the Child*; And this I fear has been my Case. The Evil seems by my neglect to have taken root, and spread its Branches to a large extent; and should I in this juncture of Affairs make use of my Maternal Power, or Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, and publickly disinherit, or denounce them to be no Members of my Body, who have broken my *Canons* and *Constitutions*, to which an Excommunication, *ipso facto*, is annexed, I might fear to Exasperate rather than recal my Children to a due Obedience: Nay I might justly apprehend a vast diminution in my Numbers; and they who have given this wound to their Mothers Honour, by Contending, or abetting a *Foreign Power* against

her *Head*, would also contemn my *Censures*, and never sue for *Absolution*.

But *Loosers*, they say, *have leave to speak*. I hope then it may be allowed me, even at this time, to speak my mind freely, and read a Lecture of Duty and Obedience to my Children.

And to whom shall I Address my self, but to them whose Ecclesiastical Dignity has given them not only Authority to Teach my Children their Duty, but to compel them also by Censures to it; and particularly to you my *Seven Sons*, who of late gain'd so vast a Reputation, by oppoling Majesty, that no Emblem but the *Seven Golden Candlesticks*, was thought sufficient to express your Glory: And this so much the rather, because it is surmis'd, that occasion has been taken from your Examples, to advance too far, and pass over the Bulworks of *Passive Obedience* and *Non-resistance* into the open Campaigns of *Rebellion*.

You know what *Articles*, *Canons* and *Constitutions* have been established by me in your Predecessors Times; and what Obligations all my Children have lain under by them: But you know also how little they have been put in Execution.

You know, that from my first Establishment, I declared in my 37 Article, that, *The Kings Majesty hath the chief Power in this Realm of* England *and other his Dominions, unto whom the chief Government of all Estates of this Realm, whether they be Ecclesiastical or Civil, in* all Causes *doth appertain, and is not, nor ought not to be subject to* **any Foreign Jurisdiction**. And this without any limitation.

You know also, that in the *Canons* and *Constitutions* set forth in the first year of King *James* the first, *Not only the Inferior Clergy, but the Archbishop of* Canterbury *himself, is obliged to keep and observe Faithfully, and (as much as in them lyes) see that others keep and observe all and every the* Statutes *and Laws confirming the* Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction *of the Kings of* England. *And that all who have Cure of Souls, Preachers,* &c. *Shall Teach that* All Foreign and Usurped Power, *has for just Causes been taken away and abolish'd; and therefore no* Obedience *or* Subjection *is in* any manner due, *in these his Majesties Kingdoms and Dominions, to* **any Foreign Power whatsoever** —— *But that the Regal Authority is the First and Supream next under* God, *to which* All Persons *are obliged by the Law of God to pay* All Fidelity *and* Obedience *above any other Power upon Earth.*

That in the 2d. of those Canons, They are to be *Excommunicated ipso facto, Who shall presume* in any manner to hurt or lessen the said Regal Primacy *Established by the* Laws *of the Kingdom: And that this* Excommunication *shall not be taken off, but by the Arch-Bishop, and that not till they* Repent, *and Publickly recall those* Impious Errors.

From whence it Naturally follows, that, to bring in or Abet *Any Forreign Jurisdiction*, (without Exception) against our Lawful Sovereign, upon *any Pretence whatsoever*, whether *Ecclesiastical* or *Civil*, is to go directly against my Doctrine delivered in my XXXIX *Articles*, against the Established *Laws* of this Nation, against my *Canons* and *Constitutions*, and such

such a Crime as is justly called *Impious*, and incurs an *Excommunication ipso facto*.

You know moreover, that in my latter *Canons* and *Constitutions*, Published in the Year 40 (to prevent those intestine Broils which threatned the Nation, and brought it presently after to Ruin:) Several *Explanations* of the *Regal Power* were Commanded to be Read by every Parson, Vicar, Curate or Preacher, upon some one *Sunday* in every Quarter of the Year at *Morning-Prayer*; which *Explanations* declared at large. Sparo Canon 345.

1. *That the most High and Sacred Order of* Kings *is of* Divine Right, *and that God has given Them a Supreme Power to Rule and Command in Their several Dominions, all Persons of what Rank or Estate soever, whether* Ecclesiastical *or* Civil, *and to Restrain and Punish with the Temporal Sword, all Stubborn and Wicked Doers.*

2. *That the care of God's Church is committed to* Kings, *who are Commended by God when the Church keeps the right way, and Taxed by Him in Holy Scripures when it runs amiss.* But it is no where said, that either a Foreign or Domestick Power may Compel Him to do, or Punish Him for not performing His Duty.

3. *That the Power to Call and Dissolve* Councils, *both* National *and* Provincial, *is the true Right of all* Christian Kings *within Their own Realms and Teritories: And when in the first times of* Christ's Church, *Prelates used this Power, 'twas therefore only because in those days they had no* Christian Kings: *And it was then so only used as in times of Persecution, that is, with Supposition (in case it were required) of submitting their Lives unto the very Laws and Commands, even of those* Pagan Princes, *that they might not so much as seem to disturb their Civil Government, which* Christ *came to Confirm, but by no means to Undermine.*

From whence it follows, That the Doctrine of *Non-Resistance* and *Passive Obedience*, is what was Taught in the *Primitive Church*, as necessary to be Practiced even towards *Heathens*, and their *Laws*, much more ought it now to be towards *Christian Princes.*

4. *That for any Person or Persons to* Set up, Maintain, *or* Avow *in any Their Realms or Teritories respectively*, any Independent Co-active Power, either Papal or Popular (whether directly or indirectly) *is to Undermine Their Great Royal Office, and cunningly to Overthrow that most Sacred Ordinance, which* God *himself hath Established: And so is* Treasonable against God, *as well as against the* King.

And certainly, if it was then my Duty to cry out against *any Independent Co-active Power*, either *Papal* or *Popular*; it is no less my Duty now, to disavow any *Foreign* or *Domestick* Power, though *Protestant.*

5. *That for Subjects to bear Arms against their* Kings, Offensive *or* Defensive; upon any pretence whatsoever [whether for Religion or Property it matters not] *is at least to* Resist the Powers, which are Ordained of God: *And tho they do not* Invade, *but only* Resist; *St.* Paul *tells them plainly*, They shall receive to themselves Damnation.

6. *They declare That tho' Tribute and Custom, and Aid, and Subsidy, and all manner of necessary Support and Supply, be respectively due to* Kings *from Their Subjects, by the Law of God, Nature, and Nations, for the Publick Defence, Care and Protection of them; yet nevertheless, Subjects have not only Possession of, but a true and just Title to, and in all their Goods and Estates, and ought to have: And these two are so far from crossing one another, that they mutually go together, for the Honourable and Comfortable Support of both. For as it is the Duty of the Subjects to supply their King: So is it part of the Kingly Office, to support his Subjects in the Property and Freedom of their Estates.*

7. *They Decreed, That if any Parson, Vicar, Curate, or Preacher, shall voluntarily or carelessly* neglect *his Duty in Publishing the said* Explications *and* Conclusions, *according to the Order above described, he shall be Suspended by his* Ordinary, *till such time as upon his Penitence he shall give sufficient Assurance, or Evidence of his Amendment,* &c.

8. *They do also thereby require* Arch-Bishops, Bishops, *and all other Inferiour* Priests *and* Ministers, *that they Preach, Teach, and Exhort their People to Obey, Honour, and Serve their* King; *and that they presume not to speak of His Majesty's Power in any other way than in this* Canon *is expressed.*

9. *And lastly, if any Parson, Vicar, Curate, Preacher, or any other* Ecclesiastical *Person whatsoever, shall in any Sermon, Lecture, Common Place, Determination or Disputation, either by Word or Writing, Publickly Maintain, or Abet any Position or Conclusion, in Opposition or Impeachment of the aforesaid* Explications, *or any* Part *or* Article *of them, he shall forthwith, by the Power of His Majesty's Commissioners for Causes* Ecclesiastical, *be* Excommunicated (*till he Repent*) *and* Suspended *two years from all the Profits of his Benefice, or other* Ecclesiastical, Academical, *or* Scholastical *Preferments,* &c.

You know also, that these *Canons* and *Constitutions* do bind you no less now in 88. than they did your Predecessors in 41. it having been Decreed, That *whosoever shall hereafter affirm, that a most Holy Synod of this Nation, is not Representatively the true* Church *of* England: *or that no Persons, whether of the* Clergy *or* Laity, *are any ways obliged by the said Decrees touching* Ecclesiastical *matters, who were not personally present in the same Holy Synod, as not having given their Votes or Consent, shall be* Excommunicated; *and by no means to be* Absolved *till he have* Repented, *and Publickly recalled this* Wicked Error.

I must desire you also to call to mind the *Oaths* you and all my other Children of the *Clergy* took, when you entred into that Sacred Function, as also the *Declarations* you Subscribed when you became Incumbents.

The first at your Ordination, was in these words.

p. 145. **I** A. B. **do utterly testify and declare in my Conscience, that the King's Highness is the only Supreme Governour of this Realm, and of all other His Highnesses Dominions and Countries, as well in all** Spiritual **or** Ecclesiastical **Things or Causes, as** Temporal; **and that no** Foreign Prince, Person, Prelate, State,

or

or Potentate, hath or ought to have any Jurisdiction, Power, Superiority, Pre-eminence, or Authority Ecclesiastical or Spiritual within this Realm, and therefore I do utterly renounce and forsake all Foreign Jurisdictions, Powers, Superiorties and Authorities, and do promise that from henceforth I shall bear Faith and true Allegiance to the King's Highness, His Heirs and Lawful Successors, and to my Power shall Assist and Defend all Jurisdictions, Priviledges, Pre-eminencies, and Authorities, granted or belonging to the King's Highness, His Heirs and Successors, or United and Annexed to the Imperial Crown of this Realm. So help me God, and the Contents of this Book.

The Second *Oath* or *Declaration*, is before their Admission to be *Incumbents*, in these words.

I A. B. declare, That it is not Lawful upon any Pretence whatsoever, to take Arms against the King; And that I abhor that Trapterous Position of taking Arms, by His Authority against His Person, or against those that are Commissionated by Him, &c. *Act of Uniformity 14. Car.*

These are my *Articles*, *Canons*, *Constitutions*, and *Declarations*, Loyal indeed in their Expressions, and such as Religiously maintain my known Doctrine of *Non-Resistance*, *upon any account whatsoever*, and *Passive Obedience*, where Conscience will not permit an *Active*; These are the *Oaths* you your selves have taken, and the *Declarations* you have subscribed. The Censures are high, even those of *Excommunication ipso facto*; And the Laws are made equally against *any Foreign* or *Domestick Power*, *Papal* or *Popular*; *Prince*, *Person*, *Prelate*, *State*, or *Potentate*.

But what does it avail Me, to make *Laws* and *Canons* for my Children, if they will not pay Obedience? I can see my Sister Churches Religiously Obeyed, and all their Children look upon themselves, as bound under a Mortal sin to Obey their Parent, tho' no *Excommunications* were annexed; but alas! all my Commands are slighted, even from the Observation of my *Feasts* and *Fasts*, to my Allegiance to my Sovereign: And you who should stand by me, and by your *Censures* as well as your *Examples*, vindicate my Power, and maintain my Honour, take no care to put my *Canons* in Execution; Nay, which is yet more, joyn with the Multitude of my Rebellious Children, and by a Criminal Silence in this Case, equally blast my Reputation.

Consider I Pray (my Lords) your Station and your Duty. You are my Principal Children who ought to stand as Bullworks to defend my Faith and Doctrine, and not only by your *Discourses*, *Sermons*, and *Examples*, Teach my Inferior Children their Duties, but by *Ecclesiastical Censures* and *Excommunications* compel them to it. But alas! How faintly do you comply with this Obligation?

You see a *Foreign Power* is entred into this Nation in an Hostile manner, pretending to give Law to mine and your Liege Soveraign: You see Per-

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sons of all Conditions joyn themselves with this Invador, and take up Armes against my King, contrary to their Sworn Allegiance, and in opposition to my Doctrine of *Non-resistance*: And what *Canon*, *Constitution*, or *Ecclesiastical Censure* have you published against them? Have you pronounced this Invasion unlawful, and all the Subjects of the King of *England*, who joyn with the Invador, *Traytors both to their King and to their God*; *and such as resist the Powers that are of God, and shall receive to themselves Damnation*? Have you issued out your Commands to the Inferior Clergy to Read the several *Explanations* of the Regal Power, and Preach up that *Obedience* which is due, and the necessary *Resistance* which every Subject ought to make against the *Invadors of their Country*? Have you *Excommunicated* a *Burnet*, though lyable to an *Ecclesiastical Censure*? Has any of you open'd your Mouthes against the most perfidious Treachery of a *C*—— who calls me still his Mother? In a word, what is it you have done to maintein my *Doctrines*, or secure me from the *Reproaches* that are daily cast upon me?

Is not all the World ready to say at present, what a Noble Peer said sometime ago to King *Charles* the Second, *The Church of* England *is we see like other Christian Churches, Obedient as long as it consists with her Interest to Obey, and for a King as long as a King is for her: But setting aside those Cases, she can dispence with Passive Obedience and Non-resistance, as well as any of her Puritan Neighbours*: And have you done any thing to remove the Obliquy?

Nay, let me come a little closer to the Point: Have not some of your Order been accused of calling this Invador into your Country? Has not the Prince himself declared as much? Does not this reflect upon my Honour as well as yours? And have you Vindicated either your selves or Me? What could there have been more easie or more seasonable for the Vindication of both our Reputations, than to have denyed the Fact, and published an *Abhorrence* of such a *Treacherous* and *unparallel'd Invasion*? And yet we see nothing but a profound Silence; which some say, is the certain sign of Guilt.

A Silence, I say, unless you will call your last *Petition* your Defence, whilst others look upon it as a publick acknowledgment of your being Guilty. A *Petition*, which besides the unpracticableness of what is desir'd in it, *A free Parliament*, at a Juncture, when neither the King, Lords, nor Commons can be *Free*; being published at this time, and without His Majesties most gracious Answer, is looked upon by most moderate Men, as an open Abetting of the Prince of *Orange*'s Design by this Invasion, and a siding with Him.

Let me a little expostulate the Case with you. Pray tell me, is not the Prince of *Orange* a *Foreign Enemy*? Are not many of those who joyn with Him Subjects of the King of *England*? Has not He and They entred the Kingdom in an Hostile manner? Does He not now seize upon the King's Revenues; has He not strip'd, His Soldiers who would not joyn in the

most

moſt Treacherous Action that ever ſaw the Light? Has He not erected a formal Treaſury? Does He not pretend to Settle the Nation, Redress Grievances, and force, or Fright the King to a Complyance? Has he not forbid the publick Prayers for our dread Soveraign, and order'd them to be offered for Himſelf? All this you cannot deny. Pray then tell me further. What *Law*, *Canon*, or *Conſtitution*, has given Him this Power, Superiority, or Dominion, over our King or Kingdom? What Caſe of Conſcience has Abſolved the King's Subjects from their Allegiance? Who is it that has Diſpens'd with all the Oaths You or they have taken; or, can they be Diſpenſed with? What is there can make the moſt unnatural Invaſion lawful; and *Rebellion*, which is as the Sin of Witchcraft, become a Vertue? If no man muſt reſiſt, or take up Armes in *any Caſe* againſt the King; what colourable pretence can any one produce to Vindicate theſe Actions? Is the Doctrine of *Non-Reſiſtance* and *Paſsive Obedience* mine, or is it not? If you cannot anſwer *Categorically* to theſe Queſtions, but you muſt neceſſarily condemn this *Invaſion* and *Rebellion*, and all the *Adherents* or *Abettors* of it: Pray tell me, whether a *Silence* in thoſe that are obliged to ſpeak, have their Liberty, and may hope to prevail by ſpeaking, be not in the higheſt nature *Criminal?*

You know what eſteem you have gain'd in the Minds of the People by oppoſing the King, and not publiſhing His Declaration for Liberty of other Perſons Conſciences, which Liberty you thought was inconſiſtent with your own; ſo that what you now ſay to them, will be looked upon almoſt as Sacred. But if you be not now as ſtout in oppoſing a *Foreign Power*, and ſuppreſſing *Domeſtick Broils*; will it not be inferr'd, either that you *approve* of the *Invaſion*, or have *loſt* your *Courage*, or acted then more by *Paſsion* then *Reaſon* or *Religion*? I muſt needs tell you, that ſome are not afraid to Whiſper; nay, to ſpeak it out, *That you had not been then ſo Couragious, if you had not foreſeen this Invaſion; and that the ſeven Trumpets now appears to have been a fitter Emblem than the ſeven Candleſticks*: And thus that Glory which you then gain'd begins to Tarniſh, and the Garland withers upon your Temple, by your being Silent, and you ſtill Affect it.

But you will perhaps ſtill ſay with the *Mobile*, The Prince comes not to hurt us, but to Protect us and our Religion. You will alſo, it may be, ſay that thoſe *Laws*, *Canons* and *Conſtitutions* which were made againſt a *Foreign Power*, were only meant againſt the *Pope* and *Popery*, but not againſt a *Proteſtant Prince*, who comes only to ſecure us againſt the Deſigns of *Papiſts*.

But if you ſay this, ſpeak ſoftly; leaſt you entirely ruin my Reputation, and inſtead of repelling the Calumny, clench it by ſuch Diſtinctions. Is not King *JAMES* the II. my Lawful Soveraign, againſt whom this *Foreign Invador* comes? Are not you and all his Liege Subjects bound by all the Tyes of *God*, of *Nature*, and of *Nations*, to Defend Him againſt *any Power whatever*, *Papal* or *Popular*, *Foreign* or *Domeſtick?* Suppoſe

post he had gone about to persecute my Children, or pull me down (though I must [illegible] say, the promises He made me, and the methods He was taking to secure my [illegible] would have been the most solid Establishment for me, even to Envy in future [illegible]) is not *Passive Obedience* and *Non-Resistance* my known Doctrine? What pretence then can you or any of my Children have to joyn with such a *Foreign Power, abet Rebellion*, or stand with folded arms, without pronouncing Sentence against such *Rebels*.

Have you such a Charm as can turn what would be Treason, Treachery and Rebellion in a Papist, into Protestant Virtues? I dare say, if the Bishop of *Rome*, or any *Roman* Catholick *King*, *Prince*, or *Potentate*, had in the beginning of the *Protestant* Reformation, entered into this Kingdom in such an Hostile manner, for the Defence of the antient Liberties and Religion of the Nation, as then by Law Established, you would have proclaimed them *Unjust Invaders*, and all the Subjects of these Kingdoms, that would not joyn in the repelling of them, *Traytors*. And is the case now changed, because the Prince of *Orange* is a *Protestant*, and our Gracious King a *Roman Catholick*? Is that a Virtue in a *Protestant* Prince, which would be the highest crime in a *Roman Catholick* King? Was the intended *Invasion* in 1588 look'd upon by me as a most Wicked Undertaking, and justly punished by an avenging Fire, and shall not that of 1688 be as much condemned; because this is a *Protestant Invasion*, and that a *Roman Catholick*? Have you so frequently condemned the *Roman Catholick* Religion, and instilled an aversion into the peoples minds, by laying bloody Principles to their charge: and will you now assert, that it is Lawful for *Protestants* to defend their *Religion* against their Sovereign by *Invasions*, *Rebellions*, *Tumults*, *Rapines*, *Seditions*, *Massacrees*, *Blood-shed*, and all the dire Effects of *War*?

Tell not these things in Gath, *publish them not in the streets of* Askelon, *lest the Daughters of the Philistines rejoyce, lest the Daughters of the Uncircumcised triumph.* Tell them not (I say) left not only our Brethren of other Nations, but even *Heathens* themselves should skoff at our Morality.

I have heard of several *Roman Catholicks*, who being Interrogated by publick Authority, whether if the Bishop of *Rome* should come into *England*, they would stand for the *Pope* or for the *King*, made answer, *If the Pope come in with his Books and Beades, we will be for him; But if he come in with Sword and Pistol, we will fight against him.* And shall they whose Principles we censure, exceed us in the degrees of Loyalty? What Shame, what Confusion will this be to us in after Ages; when God, who will Vindicate the Right of Kings, shall again establish our Soveraigns Throne in Peace? This will be a *Blot* to be hit by every *Polemic* Writer; my Reputation thus lost, will never be regain'd, and I shall be always put in mind of the Wise man's advice, *Fear God, Honour the King, and medle not with those that are given to change.*

Let me beg of you then (my beloved Children) to consider your *Mothers Honour* and *Reputation*, if you will not reflect upon your own. Let not my *Doctrines* and *Principles* be laid aside, and those that are contrary to them embraced by you. Let it not be objected that I have *changed* my *Faith*, and instead of even *Passive Obedience* and *Non-Resistance*, now go about to preserve my Rights and Priviledges by an *Invaders* Sword and *Rebels Armes*. But on the contrary labour to regain your own *Reputations*, and repair my blasted *Honour*, by an unshaken stedfastness to your Soveraign.

Publish boldly the *Abhorrence* of this *Treacherous Invasion*, which is the only way to clear your Innocence, and confute the *Invadors* Accusation. Move your Brethren to send forth your joynt *Injunctions* to all the Inferiour Clergy, commanding them to Preach *Obedience* and *Non-Resistance* to the People, and by that means quell the fury of the Rabble. Declare all those to be *Excommunicated* persons, whom the King declares to be *Traytors*. Pronounce *Rebellion* to be *as the sin of Witchcraft*, and that they who *curse the King in their Thoughts, shall have a Bird of the Air carry the Voice*, and an avenging *God* to punish the Offence. Stand up now, before it be too late for my Doctrine of *Non-Resistance*, and then you need not fear the being exercised in that of *Passive Obedience*. For when our Gracious Sovereign shall by that means, see your Loyalty in *practice* as well as *Doctrine*, He will be as constant to His *Promises*, as you can be to your *Principles*; And if I maintain the Right of Kings, He will maintain me as by Law Established.

F I N I S.